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**FORMER NYPD DETECTIVE SENTENCED
TO OVER 12 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

JAMES B. COMEY, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that MICHAEL SILVESTRI, a former New York City Police Detective, was sentenced to 12 ½ years (151 months) for being an accessory-after-the-fact to the 1998 murder of Joseph Conigliaro.

SILVESTRI was sentenced by United States District Judge MICHAEL B. MUKASEY.

SILVESTRI and three other associates of the Decavalcante Organized Crime Family were found guilty by a federal court jury after a three-week trial in December, 2002.

The evidence at trial demonstrated that Conigliaro, himself a long-time associate of the Family, had fallen out of favor with high ranking members of the Decavalcante Family. The jury also convicted JOSEPH BRIDESON and MARTIN LEWIS with

participating in the murder itself; the evidence at trial demonstrating that BRIDESON loaded the murder weapon and gave it to LEWIS, who then shot Conigliaro to death.

According to the testimony at trial, BRIDESON enlisted the assistance of his cousin, Detective SILVESTRI, to remove shell casings left in Conigliaro's car after the shooting, because BRIDESON feared that his fingerprints were on the casings.

SILVESTRI was ordered to surrender to the Bureau of Prisons by July 14, 2003.

Mr. COMEY praised the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York City Police Department for their investigation of this case.

Assistant United States Attorneys JOHN M. HILLEBRECHT and MICHAEL G. McGOVERN are in charge of the prosecution.

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